

OCTOBER 3 - 4, 2013 – EMERGENCY SPECIAL MEETING

The Board of County Commissioners, Walton County, Florida, held an emergency special meeting on Thursday, October 3, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., at the Walton County Courthouse in DeFuniak Springs.

The following Board members were present: Commissioner Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman; Commissioner Sara Comander, Vice-Chairman; Commissioner Bill Chapman; and Commissioner Bill Imfeld. Mr. Mark Davis, County Attorney; Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator; Ms. Dede Hinote, Deputy County Administrator; and Mr. Alex Alford, Clerk of Court and County Comptroller, were also present.

Chairman Pridgen called the Emergency Special Meeting to order to discuss Tropical Storm Karen.

Major Joe Preston, Sheriff's Office, presented information regarding the weather and storm summary for review. Tropical Storm Karen should reach hurricane status by Friday, October 4, 2013. He discussed the projected path and the rain potential of approximately 5-7 inches for moderate impact or approximately 6-10 inches for severe impact from the eye of the storm. He stated that we are currently in the moderate impact area and briefly discussed the information provided regarding those impacts (wind damage, rain damage, roof damage, mobile home damage, and uprooted trees). He stated that the Sheriff's Office will be monitoring the river levels and those low lying areas that are prone to flooding throughout the weekend.

Commissioner Chapman questioned the evacuation process and the US 331 bridge wind limitations for travel. Major Preston explained that the wind limitations for the US 331 bridge is 45 MPH and as the storm progresses information would be provided to the residents regarding

evacuations. He did suggest issuing a voluntary evacuation for residents south of Hwy 20 and any low lying areas.

Mr. Larry Jones, County Administrator, suggested meeting at 1:00 p.m. on October 4th after the Sheriff's Office has more information regarding Tropical Storm Karen to discuss the bridge and weather conditions. Major Preston stated that if the weather conditions cause concern they can issue a voluntary evacuation for the residents effective at 8:00 a.m. on October 4, 2013.

Commissioner Imfeld questioned when the rain is expected. Major Preston stated that the rain is expected to arrive about mid-day Saturday, October 5, 2013 and the stronger winds would come in that evening, with land impact about 7:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Chapman, to allow Major Joe Preston to issue a voluntary evacuation for 8:00 a.m. on October 4, 2013 if weather conditions cause concern. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Comander Aye, Chapman Aye, Imfeld Aye.

Mr. Wilmer Stafford, Public Works Director, explained that their equipment is fueled and ready for use, there are crews in the field to ensure no culverts are clogged, and they will be monitoring the flooding problem areas.

Mr. Jones explained that they have reviewed all the areas thoroughly and have identified several areas where pumps may be needed for the excessive rainfall. They have the ability to secure and have three pumps on site for a cost of approximately \$830. They are also working with Regional Utilities to have their three pumps available on a stand-by basis. Public Works will be monitoring the areas identified and will be prepared to deploy those pumps as needed.

Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Chapman, to approve the three pumps on stand-by, for a cost of approximately \$830, for the excessive rainfall as recommended. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Comander Aye, Chapman Aye, Imfeld Aye.

Commissioner Chapman stated to keep in mind the employees' safety that are out in the field during these weather conditions.

Commissioner Imfeld questioned if EOC would be opened. Major Preston explained that they do anticipate to open the EOC building dependent upon their meetings prior to the 1:00 p.m. Emergency Special Meeting on October 4, 2013.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m. on October 4, 2013.

Major Preston gave a brief update on Tropical Storm Karen. He stated that the storm has down-graded since yesterday and now has sustained winds of 50 mph with the system moving at a rate of 10 mph. He said that the hurricane watch has been shifted to our west which is good news for our area. He stated that even with the down-grading of the storm, rip currents, storm surges of 1-2 feet, 3-6 inches of rainfall, and flash flooding will be major concerns. He announced that the next update from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center will be at 4:00 p.m. and that he would release another advisory and update at that time. Major Preston reported that Escambia, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Washington Counties are declaring a Local State of Emergency as a precautionary measure. He continued discussing storm statistics and stated that there is always a possibility that the storm could stall or change direction.

Commissioner Chapman questioned if the center of the storm was separating from the thunderhead. Major Preston stated yes and that it was due to wind shears moving eastward. He said that the wind shear is what is prohibiting the storm from growing in intensity.

Mr. Jones questioned if the Board wished to establish a local State of Emergency. Commissioner Comander felt that the declaration should be made as a precautionary measure.

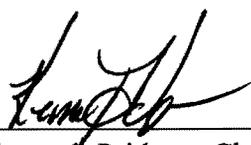
Motion by Commissioner Comander, second by Commissioner Chapman, to declare a Local State of Emergency in association with Tropical Storm Karen (**Resolution 2013-75**). Ayes 4, Nays 0. Pridgen Aye, Comander Aye, Chapman Aye, Imfeld Aye.

Mr. Jones requested input on the closing of beaches and how to deal with people who choose to enter the water. Major Preston said that double-red flags would be flown at the beaches. Mr. Jones asked what is typically done with people who violate the flag warning. Major Preston replied that citations are generally issued but deputies could take a more aggressive approach at the Board's direction. Commissioner Comander felt that discretion should be left to the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Pridgen questioned if the meeting should be recessed or adjourned. Mr. Jones felt that adjournment would be appropriate and that Major Preston would keep everyone updated through email. He said that a meeting would be called should the situation warrant further action.

There being no further items to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

ATTEST 
Alex Alford, Clerk of Court
and County Comptroller

APPROVED 
Kenneth Pridgen, Chairman